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were dictated to the wretch above-mentioned, by that Magistrate himself. Thus was this foul conspiracy brought to light, but not before ruin was brought on the unfortunate individual who was to have been the victim of it. He was for many months confined in jail, under the charges, and his property was destroyed by those pretended guardians of the public weal, the Orangemen!

I am yours, &c.

RED-JACKET.*

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

PROSPECTUS OF A STATISTICAL, AND PAROCHIAL DESCRIPTION OF IRELAND, TO BE PUBLISHED IN VOLUMES; BY WILLIAM SHAW MASON.

THE interest which the design of publishing a Statistical account of Ireland has excited, and the manner in which the clergy have marked their approbation of it by their numerous and valuable communications, joined to the great importance and ultimate value of the measure, have rendered it the duty of the individual who has undertaken the inquiry, to spare no trouble or expense on his part, which may tend to the completion of the publication in a manner suitable to the subject and the aids which he has received.

Having, in this view, addressed himself to Sir John Sinclair, the author of such inquiries in Great Britain, he has under the guidance of that experience writer determined, for the better elucidation of the subject, to exhibit models to the several gentlemen, who have been requested to send in accounts of their respective parishes; which mode of proceeding the patriotic and enlight-

ened Baronet recommends in the following words: "The circulation of queries is, in general, the best means of extracting information; but in many cases it may be of equal advantage to exhibit models; a plan which I found had an excellent effect, as it gave them* at once a complete idea of the nature and utility of the inquiries, to which their attention was directed."

A variety of models was then pointed out, selected from among the Statistical accounts of Scotland, of which the account of the town and parish of Thurso, from its great intrinsic merit had very early attracted the attention of the individual conducting this inquiry. It appears to have been formed under the eye of the author of the Scotch Statistical Accounts, and seems to be the result of his matured experience in the progress of the work: it is therefore hoped that it will be considered as a model well calculated for drawing up the Statistical account of any district; under which impression it has been selected for re-publication, and is now presented to the Clergy of Ireland for their perusal and consideration.

Together with the foregoing opinions communicated by Sir John Sinclair, he was pleased, in the kindest manner, to offer his assistance to the present undertaking; and having at the same time drawn the attention of the compiler of the Irish Statistical Accounts to the general report of the agricultural state and political circumstances of Scotland; it has been considered advisable to make the following extracts from that work, for the purpose of shewing the nature and value of such inquiries as the present.

"Various attempts have been made, to improve the state of politi-

* A famous Chief of an Indian tribe in the Western regions of America.

* The Clergy of Scotland.

cal society, in different countries, and at different times, sometimes by beneficent sovereigns, or by well-intentioned ministers, who wished to ameliorate the condition of the people whom they governed; and at other times by philosophers or political writers, who formed systems in their closets, founded on mere speculation, and hence rarely capable of being ever carried into effect. Indeed the failure of these attempts is not to be wondered at. As well might an ignorant and presumptuous individual, attempt to build a lofty and splendid edifice, without any real knowledge of the materials of which it ought to be composed, or the least acquaintance with architecture, as the ingenious philosopher, secluded from the scenes of active life, could pretend to form a system, calculated for the *practical improvement*, or the *solid advantage*, of a populous and industrious nation.

“Nor does it appear that even those benevolent rulers, who, without possessing the requisite information, endeavoured to ameliorate the situation of those whom they governed, have been much more successful. Indeed, how could it be expected that they should succeed, unless they had previously made those minute and extensive inquiries, without which they must remain in the dark, and their efforts would probably become mischievous, instead of beneficial? Without a knowledge of facts, as a basis for any intended alteration in the laws, or in the political establishment of a nation, it is impossible to judge, whether any change that may be brought about, would not be injurious, or at least useless, instead of being advantageous to the community.

“It is obvious, that no individual can rationally undertake to improve

his landed property, without knowing its extent, the soil of which it consists, the number of farmers by whom it is occupied, the state of the buildings erected on it, the crops which it is capable of producing, the best means of cultivating it, &c. In the same manner, no governor can improve a country, or ameliorate the condition of its inhabitants, without entering into minute inquiries of a similar nature, for the purpose of at least removing all obstacles to improvement. Indeed, what is a country, but a great estate? And the same general principles, as the celebrated Sully has ably maintained, which are applicable to the improvement of the one, must necessarily be calculated to promote the interests and happiness of the other.”

In determining the plan upon which the Statistical Account of Ireland should finally appear before the public, some difficulties have occurred, arising principally from an anxious wish to render the work as popular as is consistent with utility, both with the public in general and the respected individuals who have given it their support and assistance. While there are many who are ardent admirers of the Statistical work for Scotland, and the judicious plan upon which it has been founded, considering it the best mode of eliciting a specific detail of facts, and of giving, though in a dry, yet in an authoritative shape the desired information: there are others, who think that the present work would possess more attractions, and assume more the character of an historic record, if the writers of returns were not to be cramped by the restraints which are the necessary consequence of adhering in their answers too closely to the queries; and object to “the descriptions being thrown into the shape of a dry journal, and compelled to partake of the inelegance

which necessarily attends a mere catechetical inquiry."

After having maturely considered these different opinions a middle course has suggested itself, agreeably to which, it is intended to arrange the returns now preparing for publication. The compiler of this work professes to form a book more calculated for utility than amusement. Its value will consist in being a great body of local information, collected by men of learning and genius, who possess the good sense to select, and the talents to communicate useful facts for the benefit of their country. A work of this nature, so important in its object and comprehensive in its design, can only be consulted as a book of reference, in the arrangement of which, the facility of affording information should be considered as a primary object. A division of the subject matter of each return into a uniform series of heads or chapters, appears, therefore, to be indispensably necessary; and in the discussion of the respective articles assigned to each chapter, it is also desirable to observe a consecutive uniformity, without, however, imposing any other restraint upon the respective writers, whose embellishment of the subject treated of, may be adopted with considerable utility and effect, under each respective head agreeably to the prescribed order.

A classification of the subject, pursuant to the following arrangement, is accordingly submitted, as most likely to secure throughout the whole work the objects desired. In this view each return will be thrown into twelve heads or chapters, as below specified, which will comprehend the substance of the queries formerly transmitted, blended with the details specified in Sir John Sinclair's Analysis. Both Queries and Analysis are now reprinted, and the

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several articles numbered for the sake of being referred to, in explaining the classification of the present plan, and showing the head under which each of the articles has been placed: and in the view of more fully explaining the writer's meaning, the account of the Parish of Aghaboe after being framed according to the foregoing plan, is now reprinted: this account will also shew, that an inland parish, not abounding with many of the usual statistical objects, may yet be made to afford pleasure and information.

PLAN.

A map or sketch of the parish, if it can be conveniently formed.

I.

The name of the parish, ancient and modern, its situation, extent and division, climate and topographical description.

This head is to comprehend the answers to the original queries from No. 1, to No. 10, inclusive; and also the first six articles and Nos. 32 and 33 of Sir John Sinclair's Analysis.

II.

Mines, minerals, and other natural productions.

This head is to comprehend the answers to No. 11, of the original queries, and to No. 53, 54, and 55, of the Analysis.

III.

Modern buildings, both public and private, including towns, villages, gentlemen's seats, inns, &c.; the roads, scenery, and superficial appearance of the parish.

This head is to comprehend the answers to No. 13 of the original queries, and to Nos. 28, 30, 31, 46, 47, and 48, of the Analysis.

IV.

Ancient buildings, consisting of monastic and castled ruins, mo-

numents and inscriptions, or other remains of antiquity.

This head is to comprehend the answers to the latter part of No. 12 of the original queries, and to No. 57 of the Analysis.

v.

Present and former state of population, the food, fuel, and general appearance, mode of living and wealth of the inhabitants, diseases, and instances of longevity.

This head is to comprehend the answers to Nos. 14 and 15 of the original queries, and to Nos. 7, 8, 29, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 of the Analysis.

vi.

The genius and dispositions of the poorer classes, their language, manners and customs, &c.

This head is to comprehend the answers to Nos. 20, 21, and 22, of the original queries, and to Nos. 60 and 61 of the Analysis.

vii.

The education and employment of their children, schools, state of learning, public libraries, &c.; collection of Irish MSS. or historical documents relating to Ireland.

This head is to comprehend the answers to Nos. 23, 24, and 25, of the original queries, and to No. 40 of the Analysis.

viii.

State of the religious establishment, mode of tythes, parochial funds, and records, &c.

This head is to comprehend the answers to part of No. 12, relative to churches, &c., of the original queries, and to Nos. 36, 37, 39, and 58, of the Analysis.

ix.

Modes of agriculture, crops, stocks of cattle, rural implements, chief proprietor's names, and average value of land, prices of labour, fairs and markets. &c.

This head is to comprehend the answers to Nos. 16, 18, and 19, of the original queries, and from No. 9 to 23, and from No. 49 to 52, all inclusive, of the Analysis.

x.

Trade and manufactures, commerce, navigation and shipping, freight, &c.

This head is to comprehend the answers to No. 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, and 35, of the Analysis.

xi.

Natural curiosities, remarkable occurrences, and eminent men.

This head is to comprehend the answers to No. 56 of the Analysis.

xii.

Suggestions for improvement; and means for meliorating the situation of the people.

This head is to comprehend the answers to Nos. 59, 62, and 63, of the Analysis.

APPENDIX.

Consisting of statistical tables, containing the value of the stock and annual produce of the parish, &c. &c.

The compiler of this work is happy in being enabled to gratify the public anxiety with an early publication of the first volume, which he hopes to have completed by Michaelmas, within one year from the date of his first circular letters and queries. This volume will contain the Statistical Account of the parishes named in the following list; and the compiler cannot pass by the present opportunity of returning his grateful acknowledgment to the several gentlemen, by whose prompt and valuable communications, together with the facilities which have been so liberally afforded him in the transmission of the various documents, he has been enabled to make such rapid progress towards

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the completion of a work, which must necessarily convey more general information respecting the internal state of this country, than any other that has been yet attempted in Ireland.

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE SEVERAL PARISHES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF IRELAND.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Diocese.</i>	<i>Names.</i>
Adamstown, &c.	Ferns	The Rev. Edward Barton
Aghaboe	Ossory	— Doctor Ledwich
Aghalee	Dromore	— P. M. Fletcher
Ardracran, &c.	Meath	— Dean Moore
Ardstraw	Derry	— Dr. Fitzgerald
Bailiborough	Kilmore	— John Gumly
Ballintoy	Connor	— Robert Trail
Ballycastle	Connor	— Luke Conolly
Ballyshannon	Raphoe	— Henry Major
Carrick-on-Suir	Lismore	— Standish Grady
Clonmany	Derry	— F. L. Molloy
Clonmore, &c.	Armagh	— Samuel Gerard
Creggan	Armagh	— Henry Stewart
Drumcannon, &c.	Waterford	— John Cook
Dunaghy	Connor	— William Mayne
Dunbrody, &c.	Ferns	— W. Glascott
Dungiven	Derry	— W. St. J. Patterson
Enniscorthy, &c.	Ferns	— Richard Radcliffe
Fiddown, &c.	Ossory	— Joseph Sandys
Finavoy	Connor	— James Greene
Fuerty	Elphin	— Montague Short
Grange Silve	Leighlin	— Edward Bayley
Hacketstown, &c.	Leighlin	— D. McNeale
Hollywood	Down	— W. A. Holmes
Kilberry	Dublin	— Thomas Kingsbury
Killegny, &c.	Ferns	— J. P. Gordon
Killeevy	Armagh	— Joseph Henry
Killybegs	Raphoe	— J. Crawford
Kilmacow	Ossory	— E. Carr
Kilmanahan	Kilfenora	— Dr. Kenny
Lea	Kildare	— John Jones
Lismore, &c.	Lismore	— Thomas Crawford
Macroon	Cork	— Samuel Davis
Maghera	Derry	— J. Graham
Magheragal	Connor	— F. Potter
Rathdrummin, &c.	Armagh	— A. Lindsay
Templecarne	Clogher	— William Ingram
Whitechurch, &c.	Ferns	— Thomas Handcock

The Original Queries for obtaining Topographical, Statistic, and Antiquarian Information, transmitted to the Clergy, in September, 1813.

1. The name of the parish, ancient and modern; and the patron's name and residence?
2. In what barony, county, and diocese situated?

3. Whether united, &c.; and if so, to what parishes?

4. Its geographical situation and boundaries?

5. Its townlands or other subdivisions, with its extent in computed miles?

6. What proportion of arable, meadow, and pasture land it contains?

7. Also, the high road or roads intersecting the same?

8. What rivers, their sources and bearings; loughs, harbours, creeks, shores, &c., their dimensions, peculiar productions, &c.

9. What mountains or hills, whether pasturable or heathy and barren?

10. What bogs, moors, woods, thickets, plants, &c.?

11. What mines, minerals, &c.?

12. What churches, chapels, and places of worship; glebe and glebe-houses; ruins of monasteries and other religious houses: also of castles, round-towers, Danish forts and raths, moats, monuments, and inscriptions?

13. What modern buildings, such as infirmaries, hospitals, jails, penitentiaries, bridewells or workhouses? When erected, by whom endowed, and how supported? Bridges, towns, and villages, noblemen and gentlemen's seats and improvements; on which side of the road leading to next market-town are they situated, with their distances and bearings from such town?

14. The reputed number of inhabitants of such parish, from the number of families appearing in vestry-books and militia return rolls; distinguishing, as far as can be done, males and females, their occupations, whether in trade, manufacture, or agriculture?

15. The situation of inhabitants in point of wealth, the general food, health, appearance, and mode of living of the lower classes; extraordinary instances of longevity, &c.?

16. Particular customs, patron and patron-days, and traditions respecting them; as also, the general traditions of the place; and the probable derivations of the names of places?

17. The language used by the people in general?

18. The genius and dispositions of the poorer class?

19. The education and employment of their children?

20. What schools? whether public, if so, on what plan? the quarterly salary for tuition, and number of scholars, if endowed, by whom, and with what revenue?

21. Whether there be any public library? any collection of Irish or other manuscript documents relating to Ireland, &c.

22. Highest acreable rent of the best, the middling and the poorest land in the parish, supposing it to be set within the last three years?

23. State of tithes, the several kinds, and how taken?

24. What modes of Agriculture, stocks of cattle, &c.?

25. Markets and fairs, when and where held?

Sir John Sinclair's Analysis of the Statistical Account of a Parochial District.

1. The name and its origin
2. Situation and extent of the parish
3. Number of acres
4. Description of the soil and surface
5. Nature and extent of the sea-coast.
6. Lakes, rivers, islands, hills, rocks, caves, woods, orchards, &c.
7. Climate and diseases
8. Instances of longevity
9. State of property
10. Number of proprietors
11. Number of residing proprietors
12. Mode of cultivation
13. Implements of husbandry
14. Manures
15. Seed time and harvest
16. Remarkable instances of good and bad seasons
17. Quantity and value of each species of crops

18. Total value of the whole produce of the district
19. Total, real, and valued rent
20. Price of grain and provisions
21. Total quantity of grain and other articles consumed in the parish
22. Wages and price of labour
23. Services, whether exacted or abolished
24. Commerce
25. Manufactures
26. Manufacture of kelp, its amount, and the number of people employed in it
27. Fisheries
28. Towns and villages
29. Police.
30. Inns and ale houses
31. Roads and bridges
32. Harbours
33. Ferries, and their state
34. Number of ships and vessels
35. Number of seamen
36. State of the church
37. Stipend, manse, glebe and patron
38. Number of poor
39. Parochial funds, and the management of them
40. State of the schools and number of scholars
41. Ancient state of population
42. Causes of its increase or decrease
43. Number of families
44. Exact amount of the number of souls now living
45. Division of the inhabitants
 - I. By the place of their birth
 - II. By their ages
 - III. By their religious persuasions
 - IV. By their occupations and situations in life
 - V. By their residence, whether in town, village, or in the country
46. Number of houses
47. ——— uninhabited houses
48. ——— dove-cots, and to what extent they are destructive to the crops
49. ——— horses, their nature and value
50. ——— cattle, and do.
51. ——— sheep, and do.
52. ——— swine, and do.
53. Minerals in general
54. Mineral springs
55. Coal and fuel
56. Eminent men.
57. Antiquities
58. Parochial records
59. Miscellaneous observations
60. Character of the people
61. Their manners, customs, stature, &c.
62. Advantages and disadvantages
63. Means by which their situation could be meliorated, &c.

In the Press, and speedily will be published, in octavo, embellished with maps, plates, &c.

The first volume of the STATISTICAL ACCOUNT, OR PAROCHIAL DESCRIPTION OF IRELAND. The manner and terms on which the clergy and gentlemen can be supplied with copies, will be announced in a future advertisement. The clergy having with an alacrity that does them the greatest honour, supplied materials for the 2d and 3d volumes of this extensive work, the public may expect, that they will be ready for delivery early in the ensuing spring.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE read in your last number, "Dion's" reply to my former remarks on the impropriety of using Classical quotations. His arguments and "whipping" allusions, can only be understood by Classical scholars, being as unintelligible to others, as his "Integer vitæ." He says, that I erroneously suppose, that it is to their learning, that writers quote the foreign and dead languages; and that I seem to think that language has but